

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 12 are amended. Reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed in, and return initialed copies of, Forms PTO-1449 submitted with the February 28, July 18 and September 13, 2005 Information Disclosure Statements. For the Examiner's convenience, courtesy copies of the February 28, 2005, July 18, 2005 and September 13, 2005 Forms PTO-1449 are enclosed herein.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7-9, 12-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,838,361 to Takeo ("Takeo"); and rejects claims 10, 11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Takeo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,761,925 to Banno et al. ("Banno"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 10 and 12 are amended to recite forming an optical member precursor or a lens precursor on the top surface of the base member. (See the specification at, for example, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0105]). Takeo and Banno do not disclose or suggest this feature.

In particular, Takeo discloses dropping a first material 10 onto a substrate 1. See Fig. 1A and col. 5, lines 15-25. Takeo discloses dropping a second material 20 after dropping the first material 10. See Figs. 1F-1I, and col. 6, lines 61-66. The second material is used for forming layer 22 in a region where the first material has been completely removed. See Fig. 1E, and col. 6, lines 24-25 and lines 43-44. In particular, the second material 20, after being dropped, stays on the substrate 1 and is spread on the substrate 1 up to an edge formed by the first material 10. See Figs. 1G and 1H, and col. 6, lines 61-66. The layer 22 is formed from the second material 20, and is formed on the substrate 1, and not on the first material 10. See Figs. 1G-1I, and col. 7, lines 18-25. Thus, Takeo does not disclose or suggest forming an optical member precursor or a lens precursor on the top surface of the base member, as recited in claims 1, 10 and 12.

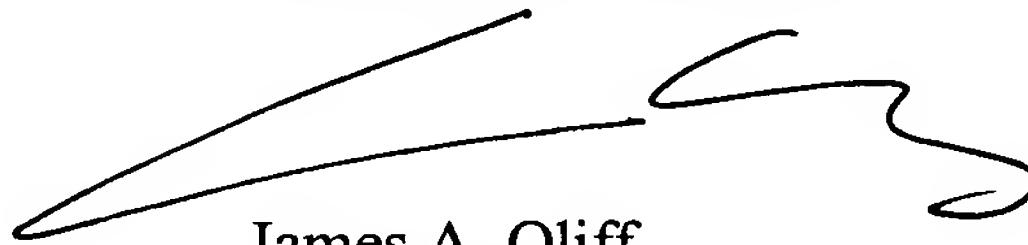
Banno discloses depositing a droplet 7 on a substrate 1 and between electrodes 2 and 3. See Fig. 1B and col. 8, lines 5-11. Banno does not disclose or suggest forming an optical member precursor or lens precursor on the top surface of the base member, as recited in claims 1, 10 and 12. Therefore, Banno does not supply the subject matter lacking in Takeo.

For at least the above reasons, Takeo and Banno, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1, 10 and 12, and claims 2-9, 11 and 13-16 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Courtesy copy of February 28, 2005 Form PTO-1449

Courtesy copy of July 18, 2005 Form PTO-1449

Courtesy copy of September 13, 2005 Form PTO-1449

Date: September 21, 2005

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